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Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://ahea.net> and send any suggestions you have to the Executive Director at eniko.basa@verizon.net or 4515 Willard Ave., Apt. 2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Conference

Rutgers University hosted the 38th Conference of the AHEA for a rich program over the three days. A film presentation of The Door by Magda Szabó opened the events. The presentation was introduced by Catherine Portuges (U. Mass) who also led a post screening discussion of this semi-autobiographical treatment of an incident in the famous author's life.

The Keynote Address by **István Deák**, "National Socialist Germany's East European Allies and Ethnic Cleansing" highlighted the diverse nature of the presentations. Deák pointed out that Hungary was not the master of its fate after 1944, the German occupation of Hungary. The Allies, moreover, were not always supportive of opposition forces. The persecutions were also not limited to Jews: anyone who had something the Nazis wanted was a target. Treatment of local Jewish populations also differed by country: Romania only persecuted the Jews in Transylvania, Slovakia was determined to wipe out Jews in all of its newly acquired territories, while Hungary stalled and resisted until the German coup in October 1944. As proof of the ineffective and unwilling ethnic cleansing, 40% of Hungarian Jews survived. Deák

pointed out that the policy was not of genocide so much as getting the Jews out of the country. Since Hungary's economy was dependent on Germany, that country exerted a great deal of influence. Hungarian minority politics also played a role: Fascist Slovakia and Croatia, integrated into Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia respectively, were seen as victors after WWII, as was Romania which changed sides at the last minute. Hungary, in contrast, was unjustly seen as a last ally of Hitler.

The **History** panel was opened by **Peter Pastor** who spoke on the newly timely topic of Mihály Károlyi. Seen as responsible for the punitive decrees against Hungary at the Trianon Peace Treaties, Karolyi has been both reviled and praised in the intervening century. While some of Karolyi's actions can be debated, the fate of Hungary was undoubtedly sealed by pacts among the Allies and the Little Entente. There was little Károlyi could do to change this. His disbanding of the Army might have been ill-advised but was not responsible for the fiasco, Pastor argues. Recent controversy over the removal his statue has revived the old argument of his responsibility in the transfer of power to the Communists. Pastor argues that the transfer was inevitable and out of Károlyi's hands.

Tara Lotstein gave a presentation on the situation of the Hungarian minority in Vojvodina, Serbia where the Hungarians form 50% of the population. The autonomy of the region was abolished in 1989. Rights and privileges have fluctuated since with gains in self-rule and minority rights on the increase since 2000's. **Tamás Kovács** spoke on the policies of the KEOKH (National Central Authority for Controlling Aliens) which sought to control the minorities. **Csaba Fazekas** examined Bishop Ottokár Prohaszka's role in shaping public opinion in Hungary in the interwar years, including questions of Anti-Semitism and irredentist policies.

The **Impact of World War II** cannot be divorced from earlier historical considerations. **Tibor Glanz** (U. of Debrecen) chaired papers by **Julia Bock** (Long Island U, Brooklyn, NY) on Jewish professionals. The traumas of women in the war was addressed by **Louise Vasvari** (SUNY), and **Ilana Rosen** (Ben Gurion U.) focused on family history.

Early Modern History featured **Angela K. Gazda** (CUNY) on the witch trials in Transylvania in the Early Modern Period. **Georg Michels** (U. of California, Riverside) argued that the Counter-Reformation failed in Hungary because of the resilience of the county nobility, the resistance of the peasants and townspeople, the defection of the Protestant soldiers, and the proximity of the Ottoman border. **Borbála Zsemlyei** (Babes-Bolyai U.) highlighted some of the linguistic variations shown in The Thesaurus of Hungarian Language as used in Transylvania. A valuable tool for linguistic research now available in digitized form, it not only records when a particular word was first used in print but also gives clues to the spoken language in Transylvania and the Partium from the 13th to the 20th century.

The section on **Language and Cultural Education** addressed problems of language teaching in the diaspora. **Valeria Varga** (Indiana U.) brought her experience in teaching Hungarian at her institution. **Julianna Gaál** (Indiana U.) examined old and new teaching methods, while **Erzsébet Molnár** (U. of Miskolc) emphasized the interconnections between mother tongue and leaned language. **Ildikó Brockhauser** (Trocaire College) examined the roles of tales. **Judith Kesserú Némethy** (NYU) chaired the panel on **Language Maintenance Abroad** which focused on the role of the Hungarian Scouts in language and culture. **Gábor Dömötör**, (Hungarian Scouts in Exeter) spoke of the role of the Scouts in language maintenance, while the Balasszi Institute's programs were presented by **Orsolya Maróti** of the Institute.

In some ways the section on **Politics, Diplomacy, Culture** dove tailed with the former session. **Erika Sólyom** (Corvinus U.) presented a case for the American Corner, a site which enables both Hungarians and Americans to connect to the US Embassy, various cultural institutions, special events, etc. **Nora Tyeklar** (U. Mass.) suggested that the Jobbik's anti-Roma policies had marginalized this minority population and also led to a deplorable polarization.

The problems of the Holocaust were addressed in **Jewish Memories and Holocaust Martyrs**. **Judy Young** (Hungarian Studies Association of Canada) spoke on the attempts by the Hungarian Jewish Museum (1939-1944) to preserve the past. The Museum, reaching back to 1896, seeks to document the long association of the Hungarian state with its Jewish population. This has been a more positive relationship than in other European countries. Unfortunately, in the 20th century negative forces gained ground. **Ruth Biro** (Duquesne

U.) gave a talk on Raul Wallenberg and **Kathy DeRose** (Duquesne U.) paid tribute to Sára Salkházi.

Modern innovations continue to be an interest of the Association so that the section on **Innovation in Science and Technology** was pivotal. **John P. Gyekenyesi** (NASA, Cleveland State U.) spoke on Theodor von Kármán, a major figure in space exploration. **Tamás Gemes** (Calasancius Training Program) addressed the need for more entrepreneurial projects drawing on his experience as a CTP student in the US. **Emese Ivan** (St. John's U.) examined the academic approach to internationalism, while **Sylvia Csürös Clark** (St. John's U.) looked at the Hungarian program at Rutgers University

The **Hungarians in America** panel featured **Susan Glanz** (St. John's U., N.Y), **Ilona Kovács** (OSZK), **Steven Béla Várdy** (Duquesne U.) **Nóra Deák** (ELTE) and **Christopher Adam** (Carleton U., Ontario). Glanz recounted the success story of Emil Kiss, founder of a successful New York bank. Hungarians in the Armed Services were chronicled by Kovács, while Várdy examined the way in which the post- World War II immigrants changed Hungarian-American society. Diaspora questions were addressed by Adam, who pointed out that Hungarian Canadians at one point were pro-Communist but they became disillusioned in 1956 when the nature of Communist dictatorships became clear. Nora Deák looked at memories of the 1956 Revolution in physical spaces in Hungary and the United States. Some of these memorials, such as the Victims of Communism in Washington, DC, are not specifically Hungarian but have been coopted by certain Hungarian émigré groups.

The section on **Biographies** addressed the increasingly popular genre of personal recollections and historical examination of lives. **Raul Rothblatt** (Jumbie Records, NY)

focused on an early immigrant, Joseph Goldblatt, who played an important role in mid-nineteenth century judicial history advocating liberal policies. His children carried on this tradition. **Stephen Beszedits** (Independent Scholar) gave an interesting talk on the origin of the Kossuth hat, while **Arthur A. Bartfay** (Independent Scholar) talked about Kossuth's 1850-51 visit to the US.

Hungarian Language and Culture in Transylvania drew on papers by those most affected. **Krisztina Sárossi-Márdirosz** (Sapientia Hungarian University) spoke of the importance of the Szabó T. Attila Linguistic Institute which advocates databases in linguistic studies and offers language services to Hungarian institutions. **Noémi Gál** (Sapientia Hungarian University) spoke to the role of the language policy of the European Union, addressing problems of Hungarian as a minority language in various EU countries. **Kinga Széchenyi** (Independent Scholar) chronicled the internal deportations in Romania from 1948-1964. The Romanian punishments for simply being a member of the middle class extended years beyond similar programs in most other Soviet dominated countries.

Music and Dance from Operetta to YouTube was a lively session chaired by **Susan Glanz** (St. John's U). **Micaela Baranello** (Princeton) contrasted the Hungarian and Austrian productions of "Der Zigeunerprimas." A lively biography of Jancsi Rigó was presented by **Csaba Katona** (HAS) who researched Gilded Age scandals as well as Teddy Roosevelt's interest in the popular musician. **Judith Olson's** (AHFC) presentation of the role of YouTube in Hungarian cultural exchanges, and **Ágnes Fülemile's** (Balassi Institute) presentation of plans for the Hungarian central role in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival of 2013 completed the session. *[Note: The project presented by Ágnes was mostly realized and*

the event was a great success. See below for more on this subject.]

Louise Vasvári (SUNY) chaired the session on **Hungarian Approaches to Culultural Studies**. **Martha Pereszlényi Pinter** (John Carrol U.) presented a fascinating mélange of fairy tale and fantasy in the Paul Fejős film, “Marie, Légende Hongroise”, which explored social issues of the 1920's. **Lilla Tóke** (Rochester Inst. of Technology) argued that Béla Tarr's oeuvre proves that films with a local character can also be universally significant. **János Mazsu** (U. of Debrecen) talked about capital investments in that city and its impact on the Hungarian economy. **Tanya Watson** (U. of Ottawa) examined the Communist state's policies on reproductive rights in “Representations of Childlessness in Nők Lapja.”

Enikő M. Basa chaired the session on Hungarian Literature into the 21st century. **Elizabeth Molnár Rajec** (Independent Scholar) presented insightful comparison of Ferenc Molnár's Liliom and Carousel which shed light on Molnár's goals to shine a light on social problems. **Paul Sohár** (Independent Scholar) spoke on György Faludi's poetry. Faludi was one of several Communist intellectuals who became disillusioned with the system after 1956, or upon a closer encounter with it. His later poems dealt with love more than politics.

Borbála Faragó (CEU) looked at questions of ethnicity and citizenship through the poetry of Zsófia Balla. While Balla's move to Hungary was voluntary, Faragó argues that she is representative of “migrant poets.” Two postmodern authors, Ferenc Barnás and György Dragoman were the topics of **Marguerite Allen's** (Northwestern U.) paper on nihilism in the 21st century. The surrealism of the Communist state is the subject of both authors and Allen presents the dilemma of the authors to present both the surrealism and the mandatory positive spin ably. Overall, both novels are also Bildungsroman which allow for great latitude in interpretations. **Amadeo Di Francesco** (U. of Naples) provided a backdrop to 20th century literary values in his talk on Sándor Márai. DiFrancesco argued that Márai can be a fountainhead for later writers who also seek answers to literary and existential questions, since he himself was a seeker for ultimate values.

Minutes of the AHEA Meeting

At the Business Meeting of the AHEA several issues were decided. The **dues** were raised to: \$30.00 for regular members; \$50.00 for couples, and remained at \$10.00 for students and retirees. This will be reflected on the web site. Please check the web page for your membership information, including your current dues situation and let the webmaster, Katalin Vörös (voros@eecs.berkeley.edu) know of any changes which need to be made to your entry. You may also edit some of your own entry.

Elections have to be held in 2014. Louise Vasvári is the Nominations Chair and she will be assembling the slate. The posts to be filled are: President and Vice President, who can be reelected; Secretary and Treasurer who cannot be reelected; and two new Board members.

The site and date of the **AHEA conference in 2014** is the U. of Florida, Gainesville, at the invitation of Alice Freifeld. Information is being made available on the home page. The date is 8-10 May. The topic is: *Turning Points in Hungarian Life and History*.

The **2015 Conference** will be held in Kolozsvár, Transylvania. Pre-conference trips are being planned and local universities and institutions will be involved. Check the home page for information as this becomes available.

The AHEA sent its usual **scholarship** to the **Sapientia University in Marosvásárhely of \$1,000**. Several students were served and the school and students expressed their gratitude.

We are very pleased to report that the *American Hungarian Foundation*, one of the oldest Hungarian associations in the U.S. has recognized the work of the American Hungarian Educators Association by granting it the **Abraham Lincoln Award**. Enikő M. Basa announced the award at the meeting; the formal ceremony was held at the Foundation’s Museum in the context of the Friday evening reception. Enikő M. Basa, Founder and Executive Director, and Julia Bock, President, accepted the award.

The AHEA has sent representatives to the **Hungarian Leadership Conference** and the **Magyar Diaspora Tanács** to ensure our representation at Hungarian initiatives. Our participation has always been predicated on keeping our independence. The AHEA does not subscribe to any of the programs unless they conform to our goals and do not involve political commitment. We remain independent while ensuring that we are recognized as a major American-Hungarian organization devoted to Hungarian studies. We also participated in the HATOG (Hungarian Americans Together) in Atlanta.

Treasurer’s Report

AHEA Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$3,605.28
Income	<u>+9,578.64</u>
Total	\$13,183.92
Expenses	<u>-12,386.66</u>
Ending Balance	\$797.26
Picnic Account	
Beginning Balance	\$1363.86
Income (Attendance fees, i.e. contribution to food)	<u>+674.00</u>
Total	\$2037.86
Expenses	<u>-802.40</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,235.46
Scholarship Funds	
Beginning Balance	\$29,151.00
Interest	171.22
Deposits	<u>4,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$33,273.90

Balassi Institute Round Table

The **Round Table** sought to address initiatives in the US which target teaching and testing the in Hungarian language. There are no standardized testing systems, but the one at Indiana University has validity. **Beatrix Burghardt** explained how the system works. The program gains credibility from being administered by the only academic department in the US able to confer advanced degrees in Hungarian Studies. As Ms. Burghardt pointed out, certificates are granted to students based on their knowledge of Hungarian or on the completion of several semesters of language studies. At IU, cultural programs supplement language courses enabling students to work toward a degree. On the other hand, a relatively small fee can assure students of a language certificate, facilitated by electronic teaching and outreach programs.

Krisztina Bárány presented a paper on ways in which Hungarians can support Hungarian-American connections.



Events and News

We were greatly honored by the **American Hungarian Foundation** which bestowed its **Lincoln Award** on the American Hungarian Educators Association at the Rutgers Meeting. The citation read in part: *“we are honored to present the Abraham Lincoln Award to this eminent Association ... The Association has distinguished itself and is devoted to the dissemination of Hungarian culture ... and seeks to provide opportunities for those interested in Hungarian studies and Hungarian heritage to further those interests by actively supporting ethnic and multicultural programs to broaden awareness within the United States of America of Hungarian contributions to civilization; by deepening the appreciation for Hungarian culture among Americans of Hungarian origin, and by encouraging the maintenance of Hungarian language and Hungarian studies in English.*

In accepting the award Enikő M. Basa commented: *The AHEA is honored by the recognition from the American Hungarian Foundation of our work in Hungarian Studies. Our goals are similar: the AHEA has striven to make Hungarian culture and scholarship more widely known in North America. The American Hungarian Foundation has focused on collections and publications and a wonderful center here in New Brunswick. We have tried to create a presence in universities and scholarly associations, a good complement to the AHF’s focus on the broader public sector. We are deeply honored to be recognized by the American Hungarian Foundation which has a long history of recognizing outstanding achievements by individuals and organizations. That is why the award is particularly meaningful.*

Thank you for this honor, which I accept in the name of the officers, board, and members of the American Hungarian Educator Association, and of those who have contributed to make a gathering of about a dozen university professors in 1974 into the vibrant Association that it is today, with a respected e-journal, conferences attended by scholars from around the world, the recognition by Hungarian cultural organizations, and most importantly the support of academics who, I hope, have found a home with us.

Thank you again.

Hungary's central role in the **2013 Smithsonian Folklife Festival** was a great success. The plans outlined by Ágnes Fülemlé at the AHEA conference were mostly realized. Special buildings added visual impact, but it was the friendliness and helpfulness of the crafts persons, dancers, performers and of course volunteers which charmed the million and half visitors at the site. Nationwide the audience was about four million. The stick sculpture of the puli has become an icon for the festival.

Kalmán Magyar's article in Magyar Nemzet (2013 Nov. 13) gives a good accounting of not only this festival but places it in the context of the 1976 Festival when Hungary participated in the Bicentennial celebrations. It is worth noting that the 1976 participation was a milestone in cooperation between Hungarian and émigré groups which led to many fruitful endeavors in the following years. Your Executive Director worked as liaison between the Smithsonian and American Hungarian groups as one of the early projects of the AHEA.



Educational Opportunities

Conferences and Others

The **Hungarian Studies Association of Canada** held a successful conference in Victoria, British Columbia in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. Attila Pók gave the Keynote Address, and Mária Palasik gave a fascinating account of Hungarian engineering students "expatriated" to Germany in the closing days of World War II. The full program is available on their web site: <http://www.hungarianstudies.org>. The 2014 Conference will be held at Brock University, St. Catherines Ont. from May 24 through May 26. The **Call for Papers** is posted on the HSAC Web site. This is a good opportunity for more of our members to attend since the venue is not far from Toronto. As an ex officio member of HSAC, the Executive Director of the AHEA has attended several past meetings and enjoyed the presentations and camaraderie immensely. An added bonus is interesting trips and vacations possibilities in lovely Canadian venues.

Two related Hungarian initiatives offer opportunities for the Association. The **HATOG (Hungarian Americans Together)** conferences organized by the Hungarian American Coalition is a positive way for leaders of various Hungarian-American organizations to meet and exchange ideas. Enikő M. Basa attended the Atlanta meeting at which many organizations introduced themselves. What impressed her was the large number of Hungarian language schools, both pre-school and school age, in venues from Florida to North Carolina. Most of the groups also have festivals and other social events, a great component in building community relations.

The **Hungarian Diaszpóra Tanács** or the **Diaspora Committee** has been an outreach arm of the Hungarian government to the Hungarian diaspora. Substantial amounts of money have been allocated to the program. The AHEA has so far not taken direct funds but is open to scholarships or grants which would allow us to further our goals without compromising our independence. Kálmán Magyar represented the Association at the November 16 meeting.

Foundations and Scholarships

Bard-CEU Study Abroad Program is offering a scholarship of up to \$10,000 to a student of Hungarian heritage who is admitted to participate in this unique study abroad opportunity. More information about the study abroad program, open to undergraduates throughout North America, can be found at <http://ceu.bard.edu>. If you have questions, please contact Jen Murray, Associate Director, Institute for International Liberal Education, Bard College, jmurray@bard.edu; bard.edu/ceu.

Balassi Summer University Program. There are scholarships offered by the Hungarian Scholarship Board <http://www.scholarship.hu/Englishsite/Fsummercourses/tabid/192/language/en-US/Default.aspx>. Scholarships of the Balassi Institute are intended for individuals of Hungarian descent living outside of Hungary (specifically: North-America, South-America, Australia, New Zealand), who wish to improve their command of Hungarian language and to strengthen their cultural identity (<http://balassi-intezet.hu/hu/palyazatok01/call-for/354-call-for-scholarship-applications-balassi-summer-university>).



Books

Vanished by the Danube (CUNY Press) presents a life in Hungary from 1925 to 1956. As written on its inside flap: "Germany's invasion of Hungary in 1944 marked the end of a culture that had dominated Central Europe from the nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth. In this poignant memoir, Charles Farkas offers a testament to this vanished way of life--its society, morality, personal integrity, wealth, traditions, and chivalry--as well as an eyewitness account of its destruction, begun at the hands of the Nazis and then completed under the heel of Soviet Communism." "Vanished by the Danube" is available on [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). <http://www.bbi.hu/>

Silver Pirouettes: György Faludy's poetry in new English translation by Paul Sohar (The Write Deal)



In Memoriam György Bisztray

1938-2012

Our member, longtime supporter and founder of our sister organization in Canada, the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada, passed away on December 19, 2012. Professor George (György) Bisztray joined the Association in 1975, among the first members of the fledgling group. He served as Vice-President and as Board Member at various times, in the latter capacity *ex officio* representing the HSAC.

Gyuri hosted several conferences for the AHEA in Canada, particularly in the early years when we met in Canada every third year: 1980, 1983, 1986 and 1989. Even after the HSAC began meeting with the Canadian Association for the Humanities and Social Sciences we held two joint meetings; he hosted us in 1995 and 2002. Our association with the Canadian group has been fruitful even as we followed different paths which responded to different needs.

Son of the renowned literary historian Gyula Bisztray, Gyuri studies at the ELTE, the U. of Oslo and the U. of Minnesota where he also began his teaching career. He taught at the U. of Alberta before being appointed at Chair of Hungarian Studies at the U. of Toronto in 1978. He was active in Hungarian Studies in Canada and the US, serving as editor of the Hungarian Studies Review from 1978 until 2004.

His publications include studies on literary theory and history, comparative literature and Hungarian literary relations in/with Canada, the Scandinavian countries and film studies.



AHEA Membership Form/Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send dues for the current year if not yet paid. Your entry on the home page gives the year we last received dues from you. Renewal forms are also available on line. 2014 is an election year and only members in good standing may vote or be nominated for office.

Name:

Address: (give preferred mailing address)

Business or cell phone: _____

Home phone: _____

email: _____

Institutional affiliation: _____

Other address (optional) _____

Dues: Regular members: \$30.00 Couples/Joint members: \$50.00 Students/Retired: \$10.00

Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to AHEA, 4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Clip or copy this form and return with a check for the appropriate amount.

Please include your email address as we are using this to communicate news of a timely nature or those with a deadline. Also, we can notify you about developments pertaining to the e-journal, updates on the conferences and other dated news.